

Message Text

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INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS
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USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

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E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MPOL, NATO
SUBJECT: NATO SHORT-TERM INITIATIVES: ANALYSIS OF MNC
PROPOSALS

REF: (A) USNATO 6678 (DTG 111535Z JUL 77), (B) USNATO
6702 (DTG 120920Z JUL 77), (C) USNATO 6720 (DTG 121327Z
JUL 77), (D) USNATO 6722 (DTG 121345Z JUL 77), (E) USNATO
6802 (DTG 141156Z JUL 77)

SUMMARY: OUR INITIAL LOOK AT THE SHORT-TERM INITIATIVES
(EXCLUDING US) SUGGESTS THAT, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF A FEW
MEASURES, NOTABLY BELGIAN HAWK MODERNIZATION, NETHERLANDS
BRIGADE AND MARITIME PATROL AIRCRAFT (MPA) REPLACEMENT,
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OVERALL PACKAGE SHOULD NOT POSE
BUDGETARY DIFFICULTIES FOR THE ALLIES AND WOULD BRING
ABOUT A SIGNIFICANT SHORT-TERM IMPROVEMENT IN ALLIANCE
CAPABILITIES IN THE AREAS OF ANTI-ARMOR, WAR RESERVE
STOCKS AND READINESS AND REINFORCEMENT. SHOULD BELGIUM
OR THE NETHERLANDS RESPOND POSITIVELY TO ANY ONE OF THE
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ABOVE LONG-STANDING PROBLEMS, THE SHORT-TERM EFFORT WOULD
ALONE HAVE PAID IMPRESSIVE DIVIDENDS INDEED. AT AN
APPROPRIATE TIME WASHINGTON MAY WISH TO CONSIDER BILATERAL
DEMARCHES ON THE SHORT-TERM MEASURES TO REINFORCE OUR
EFFORTS HERE. END SUMMARY.

1. THERE FOLLOWS OUR INITIAL REVIEW OF THE COMPREHENSIVE

SHORT-TERM DEFENSE IMPROVEMENT PROPOSALS, EXCLUSIVE OF THOSE DIRECTED AT THE US, PREPARED IN SUCH A REMARKABLY SHORT TIME BY THE MAJOR NATO COMMANDERS (REFS A-E). OUR ANALYSIS FOCUSES PRIMARILY ON THE SPECIFIC MEASURES PROPOSED BY SACEUR, AS OPPOSED TO THE SACLANT/CINCHAN PROPOSALS, WHOSE MORE GENERALIZED NATURE PRECLUDED A SIMILAR COUNTRY-BY-COUNTRY ANALYSIS, USING COUNTRY REPLIES TO DPQ(76) AS OUR BASIS FOR COMPARISON.

2. ANTI-ARMOR. A CONSIDERABLE NUMBER OF SACEUR'S ANTI-ARMOR PROPOSALS ARE ALREADY INCLUDED IN COUNTRY PLANS. EXPERIENCE SHOWS, HOWEVER, THAT SLIPPAGES AND CANCELLATIONS IN NATIONAL PLANS OCCUR FREQUENTLY. THE HIGH VISIBILITY OF THE SHORT-TERM MEASURES SHOULD SERVE TO INCREASE MARKEDLY THE PROBABILITY THAT PROMISED IMPROVEMENTS ARE FULFILLED, AND ON SCHEDULE. OF THE REMAINING PROPOSALS, MOST CALL FOR COUNTRIES TO INCREASE ANTI-TANK GUIDED WEAPONS (ATGW) HOLDINGS OR TO ACCELERATE CURRENT PROCUREMENT PROGRAMS. OF PARTICULAR SIGNIFICANCE ARE THE PROPOSALS THAT (A) GERMANY EXPAND ITS PLANNED ACQUISITION OF HOT ATGW SYSTEMS BY MORE THAN 200, TO A TOTAL OF 525; (B) THE DUTCH PROCURE 135 MILAN OR 270 DRAGON MEDIUM ATGW; (C) DENMARK PLAN TO DOUBLE PRESENT HOLDINGS OF TOW LAUNCHERS; AND (D) NORWAY AND LUXEMBOURG MAKE PLANS FOR THE INTRODUCTION OF A MEDIUM-RANGE ANTI-ARMOR SYSTEM.

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3. WAR RESERVE STOCKS (WRS). THE PROPOSED OBJECTIVES FOR WAR RESERVE STOCKS LARGELY REFLECT AN EXTENSION OR REAFFIRMATION OF CURRENT DECLARATORY COUNTRY PLANS, BUT ARE MORE SPECIFIC ABOUT TYPES OF WRS WHICH SHOULD BE INCREASED FIRST. HOWEVER, THE WORDING OF THE WRS OBJECTIVES AND THE INCOMPLETE INFORMATION IN THE DPQ REPLIES DOES NOT PERMIT A PRECISE MATCHING OF 1976 NATIONAL PLANS WITH THE PROPOSED OBJECTIVES. THE BALANCE OF THE MEASURES PROPOSE ATTAINABLE LIMITED INCREASES OR EXPEDITED PROCUREMENT OF AMMUNITION AND ANTI-TANK GUIDED MISSILES (ATGM); HOWEVER, WE ARE NOT IN A POSITION TO TELL HOW THE CUMULATIVE PRODUCTION REQUIREMENTS OF KEY ITEMS (105 MM TANK AND ANTI-TANK AMMO, 155 MM HOWITZER, TOW AND MILAN MISSILES) IMPACT ON THE COMBINED NEAR-TERM PRODUCTION CAPABILITY OF THE NATO COUNTRIES.

4. READINESS AND REINFORCEMENT. OF THE 63 PROPOSED MEASURES, EXCLUSIVE OF THE US, MOST ARE NO-COST/LOW-COST MEASURES WHICH PRIMARILY INVOLVE PLANNING OR REALLOCATING RATIONALLY EXISTING ASSETS OR RESOURCES. MANY OF THESE MEASURES ARE ALREADY UNDER CONSIDERATION BY THE COUNTRIES AND EXCEPT FOR THE BELGIAN HAWK, NETHERLANDS BRIGADE AND

MPA REPLACEMENT PROGRAM, SHOULD NOT PRESENT ANY BUDGETARY PROBLEMS FOR COUNTRIES TO IMPLEMENT.

5. OVERALL, THE SHORT-TERM MEASURES SHOULD BE WELL WITHIN THE FINANCIAL CAPABILITIES OF COUNTRIES TO MANAGE. WE ANTICIPATE SOME DIFFICULTY, HOWEVER, WITH THE FOLLOWING:

. - BELGIAN HAWK. TO IMPLEMENT THIS MEASURE WILL REQUIRE ADDITIONAL FUNDING IN THE RANGE OF ABOUT \$70-90 MILLION, PLACING A SUBSTANTIAL BURDEN ON THE GOVERNMENT'S

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FINANCIAL PLANS, UNLESS SPREAD OVER A MULTI-YEAR PERIOD.

. - DUTCH MPA. IN VIEW OF PAST DUTCH STALLINGS ON MPA REPLACEMENT AND INTIMATIONS THAT OTHER ALLIES SHOULD ASSUME THIS MARITIME SURVEILLANCE ROLE, WE ANTICIPATE THAT THIS MAY CONTINUE TO BE A PROBLEM.

. - DUTCH FORWARD BRIGADE. THIS MEASURE WILL REQUIRE FRG AND UK ASSISTANCE IN PROVIDING BASING FACILITIES AND DUTCH PROVISION OF ADDITIONAL RESOURCES.

. - UK. DUE TO THE CUMULATIVE COST OF ALL THE MEASURES COMBINED WITH THE CONTINUING SERIES OF UK DEFENSE CUTS, WE EXPECT THE UK TO ARGUE THAT THE COSTS ARE BEYOND NEAR-TERM FINANCIAL CAPABILITIES.

. - TURKEY. THE TURKISH MEASURES ARE MODEST AND MOST
ALREADY ARE INCLUDED IN NATIONAL PLANS. THE KEY TO
IMPLEMENTATION OF THEIR SHORT-TERM MEASURES IS EXTERNAL
ASSISTANCE, PRIMARILY FROM THE US. WE ANTICIPATE THAT
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TURKISH AUTHORITIES WILL REITERATE THAT IMPLEMENTATION
OF IMPROVEMENT MEASURES WILL BE DEPENDENT ON EXTERNAL
ASSISTANCE AND REMOVAL OF ALL US RESTRICTIONS ON ARMS
SALES TO TURKEY.

6. WE WILL PROVIDE MORE DETAILED COMMENT ON A COUNTRY-BY-
COUNTRY BASIS IN OUR ANALYSES OF REPLIES TO THE SHORT-TERM
PROPOSALS AND TO DPQ(77). WASHINGTON MAY WISH TO CONSIDER
BILATERAL DEMARCHES AT AN APPROPRIATE TIME IN SELECTED
NATO CAPITALS TO REINFORCE OUR EFFORTS HERE ON THE POLITI-
CAL PROBLEM AREAS OUTLINED IN PARA 5. PEREZ

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